

REMARKS

This patent application presently includes Claims 1-21, of which Claims 6-15 and 19-21 are allowed and Claims 1-5 and 16-18 stand rejected. Claim 1 is amended to define the applicant's invention more precisely, and all rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5 and 16-18 were rejected as obvious over Hahn U.S. Patent No. 4,188,556 in view of Nozawa U.S. Patent No. 4,644,209. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither reference, nor the combination thereof renders these claims obvious.

On January 16, 2003, the undersigned held a personal interview with Examiner Le, at which time the present amendment was proposed and arguments presented below were offered in favor of allowability. At the conclusion of the interview, the examiner agreed to enter the amendment and also agreed that it placed Claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5 and 16-18 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable based upon their dependence from an allowable claim.

In making the obvious rejection, the examiner cited the Nozawa patent, asserting that it discloses providing a field producing assembly which provides fields in an axial and radial direction. However, Nozawa discloses nothing more than positioning a lap winding (i.e. overlapping windings) of the electrical member so as to receive a portion of the leakage field. In accordance with the present invention, the field producing member is provided with a portion that produces a substantially axial field and a portion that produces a substantially radial field, and both portions produce a field above a leakage level. As explained in the application, this produces unprecedented efficiencies and improvement in the operation of the motor. In amended claim 1, this feature is now recited explicitly. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

It is also noted that Nozawa specifically contemplates using overlapping coils in the electrical assembly. In Claim 1, the coils are specifically recited as being non-overlapping. Accordingly, the combination suggested by the examiner would change the principle of operation of the Nozawa patent.

If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In Re Tratti*, 278 F.2nd. 810 (CCPA 1959).

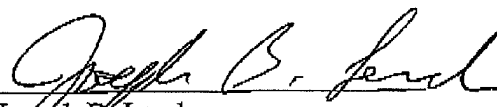
Thus, the examiner did not meet his burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to Claim 1. That rejection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 and 16-18 depend from Claim 1 and are now believed to be allowable, based upon their dependance from an allowable claim.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the present amendment be entered as agreed, and that all of the claims be allowed in their present condition, as agreed.

Should there remain any unanswered questions, the examiner is requested to call the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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